

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HWFB(FE)19
3

Head : 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead (No. & title) :

2645

Programme : (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer : Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Question :

Regarding the number of vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam To, the 2005 actual figure was 30% less than the figure for 2004. There is a further 23% reduction in the 2006 actual figure and another 8.2% reduction in the 2007 estimated figure. What are the reasons? What are the plans in 2007-08 to ensure poultry imported to Hong Kong are safe for consumption?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The estimated number of vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam To in 2007 is based on the current number of live poultry supplied from the Mainland which is set at 20 000 live chickens per day. The decreasing number of imported live poultry is a result of the Government's measures to minimize the occurrence of avian influenza in Hong Kong.

Measures to ensure safety of imported live poultry include poultry farm inspections and liaison with the Mainland authorities to ensure that requirements on animal health, quarantine and farm conditions are complied with, import inspection on every consignment of live poultry including verifying Animal Health Certificates, and collecting blood samples and cloacal swabs for laboratory testing of avian influenza H5.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **EDDY CHAN** _____

Post Title _____ Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene _____

Date _____ 15.3.2007 _____